

small press review

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Parody

Walking Man

By Tim W. Brown
2008; 192pp; Pa; Bronx
River Press, 3820 Dyre
Avenue #44, Bronx, NY
10466. \$15.95.

John Jacob

Tim W. Brown, a former Chicago native and author of both *Deconstruction Acres* and *Left of the Loop*, has concocted a kind of parody of Laurence Sterne and Joseph Fielding with the creation of his walking man, Brian Walker, a zinester who embarks upon complex travails as Brown criticizes pop culture, with his hero blustering his way to fame and near-fortune.

This is a very funny, parodic, ironic tale of the ultimate zinester of the mid-1980's as he travels through a forgotten Bohemia of literature and the other arts, creating his own zine, *Walking Man*. Brian Walker must contend with his pro-vocative actress girlfriend as he rises to the top. The novel itself is written as a scandalous tell-all biography.

Brown's audacity and energy are to be recommended. The only problem I had with the book was that the type is set so close to the book's spine that one must literally break the spine early in one's reading in order to follow the story. In spite of that design flaw, this is a hard book to put down.

Readers will be interested in Brown's next novel, *American Renaissance*, a comic historical novel set in 1830's America, to be published in 2010 by Gival Press.

